

A DEADLY FUNGUS CHESTNUT BLIGHT

Tree Disease That Plays Havoc in Cities and Rural Regions Alike.

SHADE TREE LOSSES HEAVY

Getters of Certain Kinds of Timber From Forests of Virginia Losing Largely.

The fact that so many shade and forest trees throughout the United States are dying is causing serious concern on the part of all who are interested in forestry, whether the interest be caused merely because one is a lover of the fine trees, which line our city streets, or whether one is the owner of a commercial forest.

It is appalling to note, as one drives through various sections of the country, the many splendid trees turning prematurely brown or yellow or being entirely defoliated by some insect pest or disease. The ravages of this pest are very noticeable among the chestnut and ash trees in Virginia.

Grand specimens of oak, elm, maple, ash, chestnut—every variety of tree almost (in some localities one variety more than others) sharing the same fate.

Professor G. Clinton, after painstaking investigation, writes in a general way on this subject. To The Times-Dispatch readers, he says:

Millions of dollars' worth of trees have been destroyed by these wretched fungi within the past few years, regardless of the fact that millions of dollars are annually spent in the endeavor to prevent the destruction of our trees.

VARYING ESTIMATES OF LOSSES IN VARIOUS SECTIONS

Certain writers have attempted to estimate in money value the loss caused by the blight of chestnut bark, but how this loss is estimated is not absolutely clear. However, it is interesting to note that in 1908 one writer estimated the damage in and about New York City between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000. In 1909 another writer estimated the damage throughout parts of the East at \$10,000,000. He says: "The damage already done in the States of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, would not be less than \$12,000,000."

In 1911 \$25,000,000 were given as a conservative estimate of the financial loss to the country, \$10,000,000 being the amount estimated for the State of Pennsylvania alone, allowing \$7,000,000 for forest and \$3,000,000 for ornamental trees. In 1912 a writer (one of the men in charge of the trees of the New York Zoological Park) said: "The loss throughout the area now infested with chestnut bark disease is fully \$100,000,000."

Dr. R. T. Morris, of Stamford, Conn., who has experimented with more different varieties of chestnut trees than any one else in that State, and who has twenty-six kinds of chestnuts in his own orchards, says: "If the blight killed only the old trees ready for marketing the damage would not be very great. Loss arising in part from the irregularity of its attack. Each season some trees die, thereby making cutting and marketing inconvenient. The market is often glutted so that they cannot be disposed of to advantage. Further loss may arise in the deterioration of the dead trees if they are not cut soon after death, through decay started by other fungi and by insect depredations."

HEAVY LOSSES IN TIMBER

HEAVY LOSSES IN TIMBER. MILLIONS OF FEET OF CHESTNUT TIMBER, valuable for planing, piles, telegraph poles and cord wood, will be lost within the next two years," continues Dr. Morris, "and it is difficult to estimate the loss to the chestnut industry. The type of damage mentioned is inconspicuous as compared with the loss that occurs in part from the irregularity of its attack. Each season some trees die, thereby making cutting and marketing inconvenient. The market is often glutted so that they cannot be disposed of to advantage. Further loss may arise in the deterioration of the dead trees if they are not cut soon after death, through decay started by other fungi and by insect depredations."

There is a great deal of speculation and prophecy as to the probable effects of the general war in Europe upon business on this side of the Atlantic. In this connection a review of the world's carrying power, and the share therein of the United States is particularly interesting at this time.

The world's carrying power, now, or before the breaking out of this general European war, includes approximately 4,000,000 gross tons, and has nearly doubled in capacity during the last twenty years. In number, however, this commerce is not growing so rapidly, but showing a tendency toward larger carrying units. These figures are based upon the tonnage of all vessels of over 100 tons engaged in trade, whether on foreign or foreign, ocean, river and lake.

UNITED STATES SHIPS AND HOW THEY ARE BEING USED

This country's share in the carrying power of the world is engaged in commerce, but this is due to the vast number of American vessels engaged in foreign trade, according to reports received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, United States Department of Commerce. According to a recent statement of Lloyd's, out of an aggregate tonnage of 42,000,000 gross tons in 1913-1914, 46 per cent were credited to Great Britain, 11 per cent to the United States, 11 per cent to Germany, and 5 per cent each to Norway and France. 2 per cent each to Holland, Italy and Japan, and from 2.4 to 3.4 per cent to Russia, Sweden, Austria-Hungary, Denmark and Spain.

The carrying trade of the United States shows a marked growth in coastwise and lake traffic and a striking decline on the ocean. While the gross tonnage of American vessels engaged in lake and coastwise trade was increasing from 3,657,391 tons in 1913 to 3,798,561 tons in 1914, that of our vessels in the foreign trade was decreasing from 1,262,995 tons to 1,067,775 tons, an increase in one case of 18 per cent and a decrease in the other of 21 per cent during a thirty-year period in which the value of our foreign trade rose from \$1,500,000,000 to \$4,500,000,000.

ALL NATIONS GETTING READY FOR THE PANAMA CANAL

The volume of the over-sea commerce served by the world's merchant marine cannot be definitely stated. It is known, however, that a considerable portion of the \$4,000,000,000 worth of merchandise imported and exported annually by the various nations is carried by vessel. The United Kingdom, being an island community, necessarily imports and exports all its merchandise by vessel. The United States sends about four-fifths of its exports to South America and overseas countries. Brazil sends 95 per cent of her exports to extra-South American communities. Nearly half the goods shipped from countries in Asia is destined for extra-Asian communities, and practically all of Africa's trade staples find markets outside the Dark Continent. While trade between

ESTIMATE OF GREATER CROPS.

Prospect for Plenty to Eat on This Side. Offsets War Scare on Other.

In the August 1st report for the report, last the estimated yield of winter wheat per acre was raised to 47.5 bushels, which means a crop of 672,353,000 bushels, against 653,000,000 bushels forecasted in the July report, and 524,000,000 bushels harvested last year. Some lowering of the spring wheat condition was expected as a result of heat, drought and black rust, but as the yield will be based on 12.4 bushels per acre, or eight-tenths of one bushel higher than in July, there was no change in the estimate. A drop of 5 points would indicate a yield of 2,836,000,000 bushels, one of 5 points would suggest 2,700,000,000 bushels. The par yield is advanced 17,000,000 bushels. The real estimate last month was 2,916,572,000 bushels, and the final result last year was 2,446,988,000 bushels, while the average is 2,708,000,000 bushels. It will take a decrease of the out condition one and one-half points to make a crop of 1,204,000,000 bushels. The final last year was 1,121,768,000 bushels, while the average is 1,100,000,000 bushels.

EUCLID HEIGHTS ON THE PAMUNKEY



"The Oaks," Euclid Heights.



A Nook Overlooking Pamunkey River.



Wooded Banks Along the Heights.



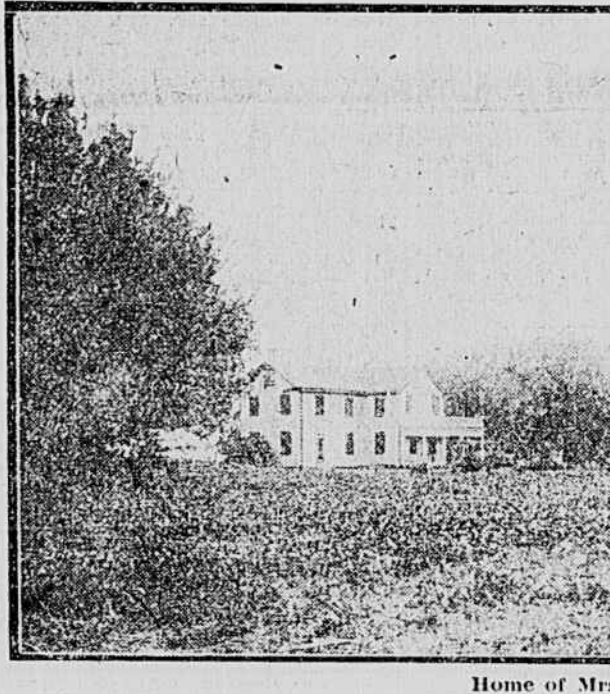
Virginia Home of P. F. Hoffman, of New York.

WORLD'S CARRYING POWER IN GOOD TIME OF PEACE

In Time of European War, This Country Can Take Care of Itself.

ANY NUMBER OF FINE SHIPS

In Main, They Are Built for Coastwise, Lake and River Trade—Can Be Used on Ocean—Nothing to Worry About.



Home of Mrs. N. E. Stahl.

DOINGS IN MECKLENBURG: SOUTH HILL IS BOOMING

Bright Tobacco Market Has No Fears. New Folks Coming In to Help Along.

SOUTH HILL, VA., August 8.—Reports from all of this part of Mecklenburg county confirm the statement made in last Sunday's Times-Dispatch that the scare about the blight of tobacco is over. It is true that the crop will be shorter, because of the drought in May and June, but since that time the seasons have been most favorable, and the weed has been growing in the very best of condition. While the crop will be a little short in pounds, the indications now are that it will be better in quality than it has been for three years past. South Hill will sell first quality tobacco the coming season as it did the last, get just as big a price, if not better, for it, and the town will keep on booming as it has been doing for five years past.

During the past two weeks a number of prospectors have been in South Hill investigating conditions with the view of buying property of one kind and another and locating. Mack Pritchett has had them in charge, and while he is reticent as to details, the quiet smile on his face is evidence that he has made some good sales of both town and farm property. He has more on his list, and before the summer is over he will doubtless have some very encouraging reports to make.

Wilmington and Carolina Beach.

Franchises have been granted at Wilmington, N. C., to the Wilmington and Carolina Beach Railway Company for its proposed electric railway, which, according to the latest report, will be longer than was supposed from the first announcements. There will be about eleven miles of tracks in the city, and the interurban to the beach will be about thirteen miles long. In addition to building and operating a railroad, the company is authorized to build and operate a power-house for its cars and also to sell electricity for power, lighting and heating. The franchises, to become effective, must be approved by the voters of Wilmington at an election on October 7. C. C. Chadbourn is president of the company.

South Carolina Engineers.

ROCK HILL, S. C., August 8.—The Engineers and Surveyors' Association of South Carolina has been formed with the following officers: president, Reid Whitford, engineer of the sanitary and drainage commission of Charleston County; vice-president, S. G. Walker, of Rock Hill; secretary, John McCrady, of McCrady Bros. & Cheeves, of Charleston; treasurer, F. J. Watson, of Cheraw.

VIEWS AND NEAR VIEWS: HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

BY FRANK S. WOODSON, Industrial Editor.

This column is open to contributors who have something to say of a suggestive nature, and who are willing to make hints and suggestions looking to the better development of the good old States of Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina, and who can hold their suggestions down in any one issue to from 150 to 200 words. Such communications, addressed to the Industrial Editor, will receive prompt attention.

Review and Outlook.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Richmond agency reports to the Industrial Section as follows:

Foreign wars have not as yet visibly affected the local commercial or industrial situation, and local manufacturers are, for the most part, of a nature to be but very little influenced by European disturbances, but in some quarters apprehension is expressed because ultimate developments may affect adjoining cotton-growing States. The Carolinian and other States to the south have shipped large quantities of cotton abroad, and it is feared that present conditions may interfere with trade in this commodity with foreign countries. Most wholesale lines here report sales fully up to, or above, the average for the season, though collections show little improvement. Retail business has been retarded on account of the unusually cool weather for some days past.

Most of the middle and eastern part of the State have received good local showers, and vegetation is in good condition, but in other sections moisture is much needed, and corn and pastures have been held back. A part of the early apple crop has been placed in the hands of local commission merchants, and good prices are being realized.

Richmond bank clearings for July, 1914, amounted to \$36,183,940, compared with \$33,187,758 for the same month last year. Clearings for the week ending August 1 showed \$7,224,645 against \$7,048,022 for the previous week.

Building operations for the seven

MINING IN NORTH CAROLINA: AN INDUSTRY YET TO COME

On the Big Yadkin River is Montgomer County, Where There's Large Wealth.

CLAUDE HOFFER, writing to the Manufacturers' Record from Western North Carolina, claims, and justly claims, that North Carolina will yet be known as a great mining and mineral producing State.

It has been some time since the mining and metallurgical industry of North Carolina has been in any better condition than it is to-day. On the east side of the Yadkin River lies Montgomer County, which has for years been the most important mining district in the State. At present the industry, though small, employs upwards of 300 men in three different mines, and a great deal of new equipment has been recently installed.

Operations are carried on in two different districts, one of which, the Candor, is comparatively new one, where, prior to the discovery of the first show of ore in 1901, it was little considered as gold-producing territory. So mining here is like in one of the newly-discovered Western fields, and is not an attempt to take over the riches of early-day effort with the most easily won material dug out.

The one vein that has been most largely exploited here has characteristically disintegrated from gold veins in general throughout North Carolina. The most remarkable feature is the absence of accessory metallic minerals. To a depth of 500 feet or more the ore is a nearly pure quartz gangue, with little or no metallic gold. Below that level sulphide of iron is reported as a vein constituent. In most of the first show of ore in 1901, it was little considered as gold-producing territory. So mining here is like in one of the newly-discovered Western fields, and is not an attempt to take over the riches of early-day effort with the most easily won material dug out.

Atlantic Coast Line Statement.

WILMINGTON, N. C., August 8.—A preliminary statement of the earnings and expenses of the Atlantic Coast Line during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, has just been issued, showing operating revenues, 1914, \$36,832,897; 1913, \$36,123,071; expenses and taxes, 1914, \$27,732,246; 1913, \$26,087,008; operating income, 1914, \$9,055,650; 1913, \$10,036,062. The figures for the month of June, 1914, are: operating revenues, \$2,851,071; 1913, \$2,602,253; operating expenses, 1914, \$2,375,217; 1913, \$2,081,160; operating income, 1914, \$475,854; 1913, \$520,093.

WEST POINT'S BIG DAY RUNS TO EUCLID HEIGHTS

Beautiful Scenes on the Banks of the Pamunkey—Where Breezes Blow.

HOMES FOR BUSY WORKERS

Richmond Folks Looking Over the Pamunkey and Selecting Homes in Much Comfort—Red Letter Day at West Point.

WEST POINT, VA., August 8.—By the talk of the people in some of the surrounding country and by the hurrying of the West Pointers many days, not to say several weeks ago, this day was marked in the local calendar as a red letter day for West Point and all of the surrounding country. Justly so, for the day should have been designated as "Red Letter Day" for West Point, when, under the modern way of hustling down here on the waters of the Pamunkey and the Mattaponi and the York, all of recent days are thought of as red letter days, this scribble does not exactly understand. It was expected, however, by a good woman, who talked to me a little while this morning before the red letter day business got too busy, she proposes to make a syndicate story of the explanation, and I will not infringe upon her grounds by further mention.

IDEAL DAY AND A GREAT DEAL OF FUN

The day was ideal enough, and the 2000 most of the workers from the city of West Point, the 100 from Richmond and the several hundred from elsewhere had a glorious time. There were all kinds of amusements, some of which were of the nature of the old-time people. The old-time tournament was something new to some of the visitors, but not to the old-time folks, who have read of the days of chivalry and of the times, when the gallant knight rode for the right to name the queen of love and beauty and all the like of that.

The tournament was followed with other entertaining and numerous mentions. They included baseball contests, motor boat races, a tug of war, whatever that was; numerous other things in the afternoon, and at night all kinds of social entertainments, principal of which was the inevitable coronation ball, with an eloquent speech that was made by H. M. Woodward.

OUT AT BEAUTIFUL EUCLID HEIGHTS

One feature of the day was the side excursions by automobile and otherwise of all the visitors out to Euclid Heights. The two large tobacco Colonial visitors, the Richmond hustlers, the twentieth century farmers of the intensive kind, the home lovers, the suburbanites and all the other visitors saw the finest suburban water front layout that is to be seen anywhere on the Atlantic coast. Atlantic city is excepted. How this splendid water front home place came to be made was fully described in last Sunday's Industrial Section of The Times-Dispatch, and nothing more need be said here.

However, it is worthy of remark that Euclid Heights is just now a place of much business. I do not mean that stores and factories are rushing things, but that there is much building on hand. The stores and the factories will probably never get too busy in Euclid Heights, for it isn't built for that purpose, but rather for the homes of the people who run the stores and the factories in the coming great city.

CLOVER HILL CLUB IS FOR TAXATION

Something New Under the Sun Develops Over in Chesterfield County.

SINGLE TAX IS DISCUSSED

Farmers' Club That Looks After Things in General Tackles Big Subject.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VA., August 8.—That taxation can be made a blessing rather than a curse was shown at a meeting of the Clover Hill Farmers' Club last week, when discussion wheeled around to the burden of taxation as being carried by the farmers and industrial workers.

It was shown that wherever taxes had been taken off industry—in whole or in part—there had been no attempt to go back to former methods—the ancient methods still in force in Virginia and some other States. And the ancient method of the taxation of industry wherever found. Incidentally it was pointed out that industry would die if it could be hidden, while the forms of wealth-production, such as is contained in storage vaults, flourishes best with publicity. In South Australia all state taxes are levied exclusively upon the land, municipal taxes only are levied on property. The State tax is equal to 1 cent on every \$5 worth of land, unless the piece of land happens to be assessed at about \$2,500,000 or more, when it is taxed 1 cent on every \$500 assessed value. If the owner does not live on the land, his tax is increased 20 per cent. South Australia is making no effort to change this system; it is a blessing to industry.

In New South Wales a similar system is in force, and it is now proposed to apply the same principle to municipal taxation. The tax is levied on the unimproved value of the land at the rate of 2 cents on the assessed value of \$500. The burden of taxation falls on those who most need government protection, while industry and agriculture neither needs nor asks for any privilege, except that of being let alone to mind its own business. Taxation here is a blessing to the many, while it tends to break up the extensive land holdings.

In New Zealand, the land tax has been in force since 1891, and at that time improvements up to the value of 3,000 pounds were exempt from taxation. In 1893 all industrial improvements were exempted from taxation, and in 1904 a similar system was adopted for local rating. There is no country in the world where there is more even prosperity for all the people, and there is not the slightest indication on the part of the voters to go back to the taxation of their every individual effort for betterment.

The countries which have adopted the land tax are satisfied that it raises revenue in a fair and equitable manner. In no case where a land tax has been adopted has it afterwards been abandoned. In New Zealand it is optional with the ratepayers to adopt or to cancel the plan of progressive taxation. The ratepayers have adopted it, but in no case have they used their powers to cancel. In practice it is found that the taxation land is put to its most productive use, and the missioners of taxes for South Australia reports that the land tax has worked wonders for the great mass of the people. Large holdings have been divided and sold for productive purposes, and the absentee owner—of which, to use an Irishman, there are so many in Virginia—has been well-nigh driven out of the country. Suburban lots have been subdivided, and the people are building houses for themselves instead of living in rented rooms at the mercy of landlords and agents. Here taxation is a blessing and industry is free to work out its own salvation without let or hindrance from the taxing powers.

The New South Wales statistician reports that the land tax has forced idle land into the market, and put it to productive uses. There are fewer idlers and more workers. The producing activities of the country have been immensely increased. New Zealand commissioners says that the exemption of improvements from taxation has had the effect of increasing the volume and the outlay for more and greater improvements. Thus labor has been increased revenue accompanies and increases public prosperity.

The land tax takes nothing from the value of the land which the community has not given to it. And it leaves industry free.

It is especially worthy of note that this system of taxation does not obtain lower at the expense of public welfare, or to the detriment of the poor. The tax money is obtained in a manner as does not hamper public enterprise, but which really encourages it. And increased revenue accompanies and increases public prosperity.

The land tax takes nothing from the value of the land which the community has not given to it. And it leaves industry free.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned, that if the system of taxing only land were to be adopted in Richmond (as it is gradually being adopted in Houston, Texas), the city would immediately develop an unprecedented growth, and city lots that are now eye-sores through neglect and lands that are held at five or ten times their real value, would become available for business enterprise or for houses for the people. Thus taxation may become a blessing to the great mass of the people.

This certainly was a great meeting of the Clover Hill Farmers' Club.

S. T.

TOWN OF ALBERTA MUCH IN BRIGHT LIMELIGHT

All of Brunswick in Fine Shape After Good Rain—Bright Tobacco

ALBERTA, VA., August 8.—At this time good things are coming to this part of Brunswick County. In fact the whole county has been blessed with much rain, and the crops are looking very fine. Corn was never better and bright tobacco is in very fine shape.

The new town of Alberta is very much in the limelight just now. Numerous new buildings are going up, and not a few of them are nearing completion. The two large tobacco warehouses are nearly ready for business, and will be entirely so in time for the handling of the crop now on the hill. Everything will be in readiness by the opening of the season. Home-seekers from the old bright belt and from North Carolina are looking to Brunswick County. To such new-comers two farms were sold this week. Up near Lawrenceville two others were sold last week. Brunswick County cordially welcomes these new-comers.